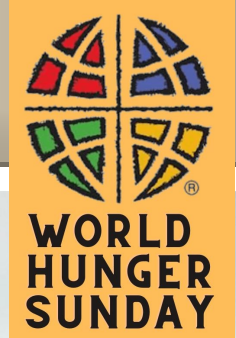


BETHEL NOTES



THIS SUNDAY

Readings:

First Reading:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm:

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading:

John 1:43-51



Musicians:

Connie Titcomb, piano

Lay Assistant:

Sandy Pepos

Ushers:

Sue Hesse

Tech:

Gabe Smith

Children's Church:

Taylah Jaques

Hailey Marr

Hospitality:

Joni Kittle

Tamy Scholten

Counters:

Stephanie Cummings

Kaleb Stringer



This Sunday at Bethel...

We celebrate the **Second Sunday after Epiphany**.

Today we lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

We are blessed with the beautiful voices of the **Jubilate Choir** this morning led by Jeff Skogley.

Adult Forum Postponed:

"The Chosen Season 2 will not be starting until the weather levels off a bit, and with our annual budget review and then the annual meeting on January 21 and 28, that makes it starting in February. Ash Wednesday is Feb 14th and Pastor is starting the book of Acts Bible study on Feb 18, so it looks like we won't be getting together until April." ~ Jeanne Rankin

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**Join us Sunday 9:30 AM
in person or online at
bethelmt.org**

*Lord,
in your mercy
hear our prayers.*



- ✝ Prayers of celebration and thanksgiving for **Donna Vinnedge** as she celebrates her retirement! Congratulations.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and support for **Diane Young**, *Sandy Pepos' aunt*, recovering at home after a stroke.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort and healing for **Lynn Klaasen**, *sister of Jan Robitaille*, as her health has declined during cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Georgia Miller**, *cousin of Amber Erickson's*, as she has been diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Anne Vannatta** who is in the hospital.
- ✝ Prayers of continued healing for **Travis Cushman** as he continues to manage health issues.
- ✝ Prayers healing of **Quentin Kubas** as he recovers in rehab after an auto accident.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Harper Spurzem**, 8 year old student at Ulm School, receiving chemotherapy treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Lindy Coon**, *sister of former Bethel member Laura (Wandke) Overturf*, as she is moving to a long term care facility.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Kristin**, *Bobbie Bowen's daughter*, as she is manages a cancer diagnosis.
- ✝ Prayers of comfort and strength for **Eric Peterson and his family** as his cancer has spread and treatment has not been successful.
- ✝ Prayers of support for **Caleb Pottratz** who is struggling with depression.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Tim Olson**, as he recovers from surgery and begins radiation treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Alex Bostic** as he continues to manage his health.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Bonnie Barnes**, *Debbie McCarty's mother*, recovering after a fall.
- ✝ Prayers of strength in leadership for **Gustavo Driau**, Regional Representative of South America.
- ✝ Prayers of support and comfort for **Pat Berkeley**.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Ed Pottratz** as he continues cancer treatment.
- ✝ Prayers of healing for **Dick Seim** as he continues regaining his strength.
- ✝ Prayers of healing and answers for **Anna Boucher** as they determine a cause and treatment for seizures.

sending love and prayers!



January 21, 2024 Budget Meeting and **January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting**, both take place after worship. Voting members of Bethel are asked to make every effort to attend these meetings. We will be voting on new council members, church representatives for FLBC and Synod Assembly, nominating committee members and 2024 budget. We need a quorum for our Annual Meeting.

Thank you!!!

**The total donated to the
Good Gifts
Safe Water Access
was \$2650.00!**



Calling All Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Bell Choir will be playing Sunday, January 21st. *Rehearsal* will be Saturday, November 20th from 10 am to Noon.

If you would like to play in the Bell Choir that Sunday, email Sharon Mueller at oboecclar@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 16th.





Great Falls Rising presents: "HATE AND EXTREMISM IN MONTANA: What we as a community need to know to stand against HATE." Tuesday, January 16th, Church of the Incarnation, 600 3rd Ave. North.

5:30 to 6:00 pm: Visit information tables on groups fighting Hate and Extremism.

6:00 pm: Panel of Experts: Ken Toole (Montana Human Rights Network founder), Travis McAdams, (Southern Poverty Law Center), Maggie Bornstein (former ACLU employee).

Panelists will present a brief history of Hate and Extremism in Montana and Current Hate and Extremism activities in the state and nation, as well as Montana State Legislature connections and recent bills that have promoted Hate and Extremism. Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions. The hard-right movement mobilized Hate and Extremism from the mainstream to Main Street in recent years.

On January 6, 2021, the nation watched as our Capitol was attacked by extremist groups. Since that time, we have seen the antisemites, conspiracy theorists and white nationalists welcomed by government officials.

Great Falls and the State of Montana have seen the spread of hate literature in our communities. We are seeing hate and extremist groups everywhere: people's homes, schools, doctors' offices, libraries, bars, restaurants, churches and other community spaces. The fear of the "Great Replacement" is spreading throughout our city. Great Falls Rising feels strongly that our community needs to be informed about what is happening and who these groups are. Unfortunately, some of our elected officials have connections to these groups. Join us for a critical discussion on hate and extremism in Montana.

The public is invited. Please enter through the alley door on the south side of the church.



FULL TIME POSITIONS OPEN

**Maintenance Director and
Administrative Assistant. Both are
salaried, with benefits. If you or
someone you know is interested,
contact Margie@flbc.net
or call 406-890-0662**



Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Myla Hadleigh Friehling was baptized on Sunday, January 7th in the arms of her parents Tyler and Nicole and her grandparents and sponsors Glenn and Peggy Jarrett.



GOSPEL MESSAGE

Faith, Seen and Unseen

"Follow me," says Jesus to Philip. Then "Come and see," says Philip to Nathanael. Early in the Gospel of John and in Jesus' public ministry, the movement is already spreading. This transmission of faith from person to person is something like a fire jumping from one twig to another.

Sometimes, though, it can feel as if the spark just isn't catching—not much transmission is happening any longer. Many people lament that their children, grandchildren, or other loved ones have abandoned the Christian faith. But have they truly? Maybe, similar to Nathanael, they have not yet personally encountered Jesus. Nathanael questions and doubts the words of the witness Philip until he experiences for himself that Jesus is the Son of God. Just as the message of the good news can spread like fire from twig to twig, so can faith ignite—or reignite—when one has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. There is no miracle for pastors or others to perform; we are simply called to prepare the way, to welcome all of God's children, and to accompany people no matter where they are on their faith journey.

To change metaphors, sometimes faith flows like an underground stream. In some limestone terrains, a stream of water might disappear from the surface and reappear farther along in a different kind of terrain. The fact that the stream can't be seen doesn't mean it has stopped flowing. Likewise, faith is sometimes difficult to identify, but that doesn't mean it's not flowing in and through someone's life. Visible signs of Jesus at work in a person are not always where or in the form we expect to see them. They can be in Sunday worship or in daily acts of kindness, compassion, grace, and love for ourselves and for others. Only Jesus knows what is in our hearts—already burning, deeply flowing, or yet to spark.



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Karen Anne Kubas, 72, of Great Falls, MT, passed away suddenly on December 22, 2023, because of a car accident in Powell County, MT.

Karen was born January 18, 1951, in Killdeer, ND to Glen and Inga Lawhead in their

home, the youngest of six children. Karen loved her Killdeer High School classmates and was homecoming queen in 1969. She took her '66 Mustang to Fargo to pursue a Dental Assistant certificate, then moved to Dickinson, ND, where she met the love of her life, Quentin Emil Kubas.

Karen and Quentin were married on March 5, 1976, in her family home with their parents and siblings in attendance. They found deep roots in Dickinson with the volunteer Dickinson Fire Department and Montana Dakota Utilities.

Quentin's career at MDU took them from Dickinson to Glendive, MT; Rapid City, SD; Bismarck, ND; and to Wolf Point, MT, before they retired in Great Falls. They loved to travel together, particularly on motorcycle trips, work on their mountain cabin in Monarch, and spend time with their children and grandchildren.

Karen is survived by her husband of 47 years, Quent; son Michael (Heather) Kubas of Great Falls; daughter Krystal (Brent) Peterson of Richland, WA; seven grandchildren: Christopher and Ainsley Kubas and Elias, Adrian, Jaden, Blake and Paija Peterson. Karen is also survived by her siblings Joyce Hoots of Killdeer; Gary (Edna) Lawhead of Killdeer; Randi Adams of Longmont, Colorado; and Lois Schwarzenberger of Killdeer, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents and brother Loren (Janice) Lawhead.

Services will be held at Bethel Lutheran on April 6, 2024 in Great Falls, MT.



Confirmation Retreat

March 15 @ 8:00 am - March 16 @ 5:00 pm
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran
Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States
Join us for a retreat at FLBC for confirmation students... "Guides for the Way: Three Biblical figures and what their stories can teach us about God, Life and Everything!"
This...
\$110

Adult Spirituality Retreat

April 14 @ 8:00 am - April 16 @ 5:00 pm
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran
Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States
Join Us This Spring! Join Rev. Jeff Barrow and all of us at FLBC to explore the topic of "Call" and what it means to be called in our vocation....
\$195

Mother's Day Brunch

May 12 @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp 550 Lutheran
Camp Rd, Lakeside, MT, United States
Celebrate Mother's Day on the Lake at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! WHERE: 550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922
WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 TIMES: THREE SEATINGS AVAILABLE 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM and 12:03 PM. \$30 per person ages 12+, \$18 per person ages 4-11, free ages 3 and under.

For more information or register for any of these events, go to flbc.net

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

Monday 1/15

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day, Bethel Office is closed.
- **Tuesday 1/16**
- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Wednesday 1/17

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

Thursday 1/18

- Hope Circle at LaRae Veitch's house 2:00 pm

Friday 1/19

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 1/21

- Worship service led by Pastor Jessie in person and live stream at 9:30 am

Tuesday 1/23

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 1/24

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

Friday 1/26

- Bethel office is closed.

Fellowship Ministries

Electric City Bible Study—online

What a great way to connect with one another! Join our bible study via Zoom, Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Laurie Turner at lolli51gus@icloud.com for a link to join the meeting.

Men's Breakfast

Join us for a fun and engaging conversation, and insightful discussion of each week's lectionary texts as we meet in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday mornings at 7:00 am. Contact Dave Scholten at dscholten@dlsconsulting.net for more information.

Hope Circle—in person

This group meets once a month usually on Thursday evenings. Bible study and fellowship are celebrated with this group of ladies. Contact Terry Korpela to be on the group email for meetings and prayer requests terry.korpela@gmail.com.

January 18th at LaRae Veitch's Home

Weekly Text Study

with Pastor Jessie

Wednesdays, 10:00 am via Zoom, Pastor Jessie will be leading discussion on the text readings for the upcoming Sunday. Dig deeper in the interpretation of the readings and discuss ways they give us guidance in our daily lives. If you would like to join this meeting, email bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.